

I believe that there is a broadcasting crisis in America. In Denver, one conservative network has bought up all of the stations with powerful transmitters and some lesser ones as well. There is not even the pretense of a balanced presentation of current events. Their news broadcasts are blatantly biased.

The latest example of the tyranny of such monopolies is Sinclair Broadcasting. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.